



# Objection 250

Stephen Coughlan

2 pages

## **Submission to Victorian Redistribution**

I tender to you my submission to the Victorian Electoral Redistribution, specifically the proposals effecting Sunbury, Victoria.

### **Area lost to Division of Gorton**

Firstly, I will address the proposed protrusion of Gorton across the hard line border of Calder Freeway, which is also the Hume Municipal boundary, and the current Electoral boundary.

The AEC's own guidelines for what will be considered in drawing Electoral boundaries says:

“The Redistribution Committee considers the proposed redistribution of Victoria will result in electoral divisions which ..... use strong and readily identifiable features, such as major roads, rivers or established administrative boundaries to define electoral division boundaries.”

This deviation from the precedent of both a major road, the Calder Freeway, and a Municipal boundary has potential future ramifications if the Federal Division boundary is a deciding factor in future Municipal boundary decisions.

This area also has a strong tie to Sunbury, the major population centre to it's north, with little, if any in common with Diggers Rest, other than by name, as Sunbury provides all of the facilities that residents in this area utilise.

The sum total of the “benefit” of moving this area from McEwen to Gorton is 347, 0.03% of the total proposed enrolment of the Division of Gorton.

I propose leaving the Calder Freeway as the boundary between the Divisions of Gorton and McEwen, resulting in the portion of Diggers Rest north of the Calder remaining in McEwen.

### **Area lost to Division of Calwell**

The area immediately to the east of Sunbury is labeled in Census data as Bulla – Greenvale. Anyone familiar with the area would know that no one thinks of them as a contiguous location except for the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Bulla has connections with Sunbury dating back to the mid 1800's, and was the original seat, and namesake of the Shire of Bulla, which encompassed Sunbury as well. A large rural area sits between the township of Bulla and the Melbourne suburb of Greenvale.

Bulla residents utilise the facilities of Sunbury, and have a far greater Community link

with Sunbury than they do Greenvale. This is also true for the rural location to the north, Wildwood.

The proposed boundary also divides areas within the Lancefield Road Precinct Structure Plan, north of Sunbury-Bulla Rd, and east of Lancefield Road, between different Divisions, creating a disconnection in the future Community of Interest.

I propose that between the Maribyrnong River and Deep Creek boundaries proposed, Melbourne Airport, Oaklands Rd and Konagaderra Rd form the boundary between the Divisions of McEwen and Calwell.

### **Conclusion**

It pains me to see Sunbury, which was designated a Satellite City by the Victorian Government in 1974, continue to be effected by a lack of forethought. In the subsequent 44 years, none of the infrastructure usually associated with cityhood have been delivered, and I postulate that the reason for this is due to our “inconvenient” geographical location.

Over the last 20 or so years, Sunbury has been considered both Rural and Metropolitan in regards to State Upper House seats, Rural and Metropolitan for State Lower House seats and Rural and Metropolitan for Federal Lower House seats.

It would seem that demographers do not know where Sunbury sits from this perspective, seeing it as “loose change down the back of the couch” when it comes to topping up numbers for surrounding political seats.

While not big enough to have it’s own Federal Division, Sunbury deserves to be kept in political connection with its surrounding Communities of Interest, and not used to the convenience of statisticians.

I hope that you take my submission on board when formulating the final Division boundaries.

Regards,

Stephen Coughlan

